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Semi-Monthly.

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342 Cedar St., St. Paul, Minn.

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INTERNATIONAL STAMP.
342 Cedar St., St. Paul, Minn., U. S. A.

THE INTERNATIONAL STAMP.

VOL. I. ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA, FEBRUARY 13, 1896. NO. 2

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Le prix de l'abonnement et des annonces doit nous etre remis d'avance par traite ou mandat-poste.

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A Fine Collection of British West Indian Islands.

Containing 183 fine varieties, cataloguing at $121.12 by Scott's 56th catalogue will be sold for $75 00 cash.

This collection contains no Postal Cards, Revenues used for postage or otherwise, Telegraph stamps, Locals, pen marked stamps or envelopes and contains only three cut square wrappers, cataloguing at 11 cents, and three surcharged stamps, cataloguing at at 95 cents; but it does contain some Fine Old Stamps from the following countries:

Antigua,	17 varieties,	Cataloguing at	$13.43
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St. Christopher,	9 "	"	7.27
St. Lucia,	8 "	"	3 50
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Trinidad,	15 "	"	5.20
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Total.	183 "	"	121.12

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I recommend

My Famous Mexican Packets.

Postage stamps only. No revenues. All used and Warranted genuine.

No. 1 50 different ones for $1.00
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No. 2 100 different ones for $5.00
6 for $25.00

The above packets have a catalogue value of three times the amount asked by me.

All remittances must be made in U. S. Bank notes and sent by registered mail. I also prepay and register all I send. Any Mexican Postage stamp wanted can be obtained at 50 per cent discount, Scott's 1896—Send your want lists with cash.

MARTIN FRAENKEL,
The Book Exchange, Apartado 445,
MEXICO CITY, MEXICO.

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33 1/3 Per Cent

Discount from catalogue prices. I ofier no premiums and want no penny trade. I have a

Nice Stock of Stamps,

of most all countries ranging in price from 5c to $5.00, that I will send to responsible collectors at 33 1-3 per cent discount.

E. F. Van Gorder,
Metropolitan Opera House,
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

THE INTERNATIONAL STAMP.

A Semi-Monthly in the Interests of Stamp Collecting.

VOL. I. FEBRUARY 13, 1896. NO. 2.

WESTWARD THE STAR OF EMPIRE.

By Roy Farrell Greene.

With what prophetic vision were penned those lines of: "Westward the star of Empire makes its way." Cycles of fleeting time have demonstrated its truism in a historical sense, and lexicographers are not the only ones who testify its truth. With men as with nations rules are held true, and, while we are slow to believe only that which has been practically demonstrated, now in this closing decade of the nineteeth century, the most obstinate are forced to admit that in philately that axiom, or saying of the seer, is being proven the while we have been unconciously striving for other ends and greater destines.

We, who have long been associated with philately, can remember when the center of philatelic habitation was east of the Alleghanies, when, excepting an occasional lone collector, our our hobby was without representation in the gilded, glowing West.

Outside of New York and New England there existed no dealer whose time and business training was given over to the sale of the postage stamp. We can yet remember the first stamp paper, regularly published, in the interest of collector and dealer, and we are not slow to recall that it emanated from the far East.

While we do not recall the era preceding this, the era when stamp collecting was wholly unknown in this country, yet we remember of hearing that the so-called hobby originated in Paris, and after conquering the continent, it invaded peacefully, silently, the domain of Columbia and gathered around its inspiring banners a host of devotees.

The star of philatetic empire coursed Westward from the first, seeking new lands to conquest and possess, and the march has been as unswerving as though the Goddess whom we seek to personify had had a real existence and all along had planned the triumphs and the travels.

And it was not so many years in the past that it shall cause me to apologize for looking backward, like Lot's wife in that biblical legend, when the philatelic center took up its position somewhere in Pennsylvania, and dealers in a small way even commenced to advertise from Chicago, and Denver, and San Francisco,

Philatelic trade papers made their appearance in this great central belt of states, and as the years rolled by, smoothing the path of progressism for other feet which should trod that way in the future, the star of empire shone farther and farther in the Western sky, and not unlike a beacon light, guided the vanguard of progress as it invaded the lands beyond the Mississippi's flow.

The membership in the stamp societies, which had hitherto been composed almost wholly of Eastern collec-

tors, showed a perceptible increase, and though unnoticed at the time, it is the indisputable fact that the great West made up the larger per cent of the addition to the rolls.

Then came the last half of the decade which terminated with 1890. Few of us who cannot remember the great activity of the "Queen City of the West"—Denver, during those five years. Their great local organization—the Denver Stamp League; their two papers—the famous "Stamp" and "Collectors' Companion. And then beyond the Rockies the star of philatelic empire coursed its way until the slope of the Western hills had sighted its glorious beams and yielded their homage and their praise to its unerring light.

How fresh in the memories of all who have essayed to keep record of philatelic progress is the first signs of activity in the great Northwest. From the Falls of St. Anthony to the waters of Puget Sound, in every village, hamlet and town, collectors were born into the cause and dealers flourished in the new field.

Hardly a hamlet, scarcely a settlement throughout this Western country of ours in whose precincts philately is now unknown. The center of philatelic population is now close to the Mississippi's flow. Dealers whose capital invested entitle them to foremost consideration in the enumeration of prosperity, transact their daily routine in this land, where but a few years since, as time goes, our hobby was without representation.

In every walk of philately the West is honored and respected. The societies which long held to the idea that conventions could only be sure of a representative attendance by choosing an Eastern seat, have proven that the West is hospitable, kindly, energetic and enthusiastic, and in this latter day we are being honored with the annual meetings of the foremost associations.

The West is now the sustaining power of the stamp world, the East having grown passive and reserved. But we, with optimistic visions of hope and cheer, still believe that the half has not yet been seen, the greatest achievements and glorys lie in the mystic future and we work and toil and strive in that sweet hope.

The star of empire has reflected its splendor on e'en the Golden Gate, but it has not set, and the hand which directs may yet discover other lands to conquer and other isles to bless. It might be well for the star to circumrotate the globe and rise again in the East to awaken the Orient from its lethargy and slumber.

PHILATELIC BOMBAST.

By M. C. Spears.

The question that is of the deepest concern to the Philatelic thinkers of today is, whether or not Philately rests upon a sound basis. Of course there are many sides to the question that must be considered, but naturally the financial side most concerns matter-of-fact Americans.

The marvelous rise in prices in the last few years seems to tend in but one direction—that is the reduction of Philately from a science to a mere matter of speculation. The dealer receives the bulk of the blame for increasing the values of stamps, but as usual, the blame falls on the wrong shoulders, for the fact is, the great majority of rare stamps belong to the collector. No effect is without a cause, and the dealer would certainly not put such exorbitant prices on his stamps if he had not good cause to believe that the collector would willingly convert his

hard cash into those tempting "bits of paper." Any long-headed Philatelist, when questioned on the subject, will say that there is not half the danger to Philately from unnecessary or speculative issues, as from the unwonted and uncalled for increase in the prices of our own country's output. It is an undeniable fact that many who would otherwise collect U. S. stamps, on account of the seemingly unreasonable prices are driven to the other fields, less attractive, but also less exacting on the purse.

The wealthy collector can afford to hold tenaciously to his specimens, and refuse to part from them without a fancy price. But alas very few Philatelists are millionaires, and it seems unfair that the minority should dictate what price the great majority must pay. To put it mildly it seems a little unjust, but if we look deeply into this matter we shall perceive that this question in our wee Philatelic world is merely a minor division of the mighty problem that is agitating the great world of today,—the problem of labor and capital.

If stamps are put at prices that they can never realize, if Philately is put on a plane that the great masses of collectors cannot grasp, then the basis of Philately is inflated, yea even bombastic. And I do not wish to be considered a croker when I state that it is my belief that Philately will never prosper until it is placed on a strong steady foundation, free from sham and bombast.

The price of any article should be governed by what it can be sold for, not what it can be bought for; but this is not the manner of pricing stamps. If a stamp in the heat of auction bidding, brings a price far above its actual value, that price ever after sticks to the stamp, whether it will realize one-fourth that value in ordinary sale or not. I do not speak idly, but from experience, as I hold stamps "catalogued" at $10, $15 and $20, that I have not been able to sell for,—well anything as yet.

I know this article is not one to inspire faith in Philately from an outsider, but it is written for the consideration of Philatelists themselves, and they well know the enormous prices that stamps reach now days. I have no fear for the present, but I speak with the assurance that my opinion is shared by many, when I say that a crash is imminent, and it is my personal belief that the sooner the crash the better for stamp collecting. A revolution in prices is the demand of the hour and if it does not come in one way it will in another.

PERFORATED GRILL.

By Eben S. Martin.

Since the 1895 issue of United States stamps appeared, watermarked, the comments of collectors have been disparaging to the government, inasmuch as they claimed that the watermarks would not prove a preventative to counterfeiting as they were so indistinct.

These remarks were brought to the attention of the government and forthwith they have set about to rectify the evil.

On those stamps which have been issued, since the first of December, the government has impressed upon the backs of the stamps what might be termed a "perforated grill," a series of perforations extending across the middle of the stamp from north to south and from east to west. This gives the paper the appearance of having been run through the perforating machine twice.

We have examined entire sheets of the following values and have noticed that the grill exists:

One cent.
Two cents.
Four cents.
Five cents.
Six cents,
Eight cents.
Ten cents.
Fifteen cents.

We have not seen the 3 or 50 cent or dollar values with the grill, but we understand that they have been issued and have been supplied to some offices. The stamps which were furnished early in December did not have this grill as distinct as those sent out in January and February.

As these are distinct varieties created with a purpose in view by our government, it will make a new issue and will increase the value of the watermarked issue without the grill.

We have not been able to determine whether the grill is the result of the impress of a male or female die, but are under the impression that it is the result of the latter. Should a male die have been used the printed surface of the stamp would have presented an uneven surface.

STAMPS THAT SHOULD BE CATALOGUED.

We are anxious to hear of uncatalogued varieties and discoveries, and would be pleased to have our readers inform us of any discovery they may have made.

Argentine Republic.—The 1877 1c on 5c, 2c on 5c, and 8c on 10c, surcharged upside down, should be catalogued.

France.—Why is the 10c black present issue on greenish not catalogued? I have had one in my collection for the last four or five years.

PRIZE COMPETITION.

COMPETITION No. 1.

For the best article upon any philatelic subject, or upon the stamps of any country, we offer the following prizes to subscribers only:

1st.—$10 worth of rare stamps.

2nd.— $5 worth of rare stamps.

3rd.—A fine used Puerto-Rico Columbian issue 3-cent dark green.

All papers should reach our office by the 20th of March and must be written upon one side of the paper only.

COMPETITION No. 2.

For the largest number of subscriptions. All competitors must be subscribers and must send in over three new subscriptions:

1st.—Thirty-three and one-third per cent of the amount sent in.

2nd.—Thirty per cent of the amount sent in.

Next 5.—Twenty per cent of the amount sent in.

Next 10.—Fifteen per cent of the amount sent in.

Next 20.—Ten per cent, and ten per cent in good foreign stamps.

The full amount must accompany all subscriptions. All subscriptions to be entered in this competition must reach our office by the 7th of April, and prizes will be sent on that date.

If you are not a subscriber send in your subscription, and go into one or both of the above.

Competition No. 3 will surprise you. No. 3 of THE INTERNATIONAL STAMP stamp will give you a full description. Better subscribe and be in the swim.

The winning names will be published in No. 6.

GOOD FOR EQUADOR!

The contract for the free supply of postage stamps has been cancelled by the President.

CHRONICLE OF NEW ISSUES.

We are anxious to receive new issues and varieties as they appear, and especially desire each of our foreign subscribers and correspondents to send us information from oheir locality, as early as possible. Copies of official decrees and circulars in refered ttpostal changes are particularly desireeen.

Bulgaria—A correspondent informs us that 2 and 31 adhesives and 10 and 30s postage due stamps are to be issued.

Canada.—The 8c has undergone a change in shade.

8 cents slate—black.

Germany.—A new issue of stamps for the German Empire may be expected. The current issue is being extensively forged.

Greece.—The 25l is now printed in reddish manve.

25 lepta reddish manve.

RAIDED THE POSTOFFICE.

To illustrate some of the disagreeable things which the soldiers suffered in the Soudan, Mr. Norse tells the following anecdote of the postal service, which also well shows how democratic was Lord Wolseley, the commandant. Norse went to the postoffice at Korti to look for some letters. The postmaster was a native and not very much at handwriting, and said that there was nothing for him, after a superficial glance at a big pile of papers and letters.

Norse asked to see the pile of letters, and while he was looking them over a man with nothing to designate his rank came into the office with another. He took in the situation at a glance and said: "Let's clean this thing out." Whereupon they jumped over the counter and bundled the postmaster out, neck and heels. Then they began the examination of the office and found it conjested with mail for the army.

They searched every nook and cranny and threw the letters for one regiment in one corner, those for another into another, with all the newspapers in the center of the floor. Then they went through each pile and separated it into companies, and before night every letter in camp was distributed and the next day the papers were out. Norse at the time did not know who his companion in the good deed was. He asked him his name and his answer was: "They call me Charley." Some time afterwards Norse was going to see the commandant, and sitting near his tent, saw his companion at the postoffice.

"Hello, Charley," he said, "I'm looking for the commandand; where'll I find him?"

"Well," said "Charley" "you wont have to look far. I'm the commandant. Come inside and have a bit to eat and drink."

It was Lord Wolesey, and a man worthy of the title.

"Dunning Postal Card."

Charles E. Pigott, a meat merchant of St. Paul, was arrested by United States Deputy Marshal Shehanon, on the charge of sending a postal card containing defamatory statements of another's character through the mails. It is claimed that Pigott wrote to Chief Clark on a postal card the following:

One of the members of your force—Mr. Martini—owes me $3.87 and refuses to pay. Kindly advise me what to do.

Court Commissioner Spencer bound Pigott over to the United States grand jury.

THE

International Stamp.

Published Semi-Monthly.

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Entered at the postoffice at St. Paul, Minn. as second class mail matter. Feb. 10, 1896.

EBEN S. MARTIN, Editor.
LEON G. LAMBERT, Business Mgr.

General Information.—An X opposite this paragraph signifies that your subscription has expired.

In case of change of address the subscriber will confer a favor upon the publishers by giving both his old and new address.

Back numbers will be supplied at 5 cents each.

Good manuscript is desired. Rejected manuscript will be consigned to the waste basket unless return postage is sent.

Foreign subscriptions may be paid in unused stamps of the lowest denomination. Large amounts should be sent by P. O. or Express Money Orders, Draft on New York or St. Paul, or by bills by registered mail.

All correspondence should be addressed to THE INTERNATIONAL STAMP,
342 Cedar St., St. Paul, Minn.

It takes about three pages of the "Evergreen State Philatelist" to make a single page of a paper set in solid brevier. We can, however, appreciate Bro. French's seeming madness,—'tis done for economy's sake, and economy is wealth.

A recent number of a philatelic paper, mentioning the "stamp department" in juvenile publications, referred to them as mere "pap." We think they are more preferable by far than the rehashed Canadian notes with which so many publishers fill erstwhile blank space in their journals.

One trouble with the philatelic editor is that he does not spend enough time weighing the subject in hand. A though some editors may not clothe their ideas with as much grace as others, we feel that their thoughts will be more carefully read and better appreciated than those of the editor who jumps to conclusions.

ONE CENT POSTAGE.

The problem of one cent postage has recently been given impetus by the introduction in Congress of a bill providing for the reduction of letter postage from two to one cent and the increase of the second class rate from one to eight cents per pound.

The motive force of all governments is taxation. When taxation becomes excessive it is nothing less than robbery. In administrating the government of a republic, it is necessary not only to distribute taxation justly, but reduce that taxation to the lowest possible notch.

At the present rate of postage there is an annual deficit of about six millions. This deficit is meet by direct taxation upon the masses. Should the rate of letter postage be still further reduced, the taxation to support the government must be still greater. As taxes are not levied upon the number of letters a person writes, but are arrived at by the per capta system, it must be seen that the banker, capitalist, or the merchant who mails letters by the hundreds and thousands is having his postage paid by the laborer who works at a dollar and a half a day. It will be seen, therefore, that the movement "in the interests of the people" is in reality "in favor of the moneyed men," and is fraught with great danger to the interests of our country and its toiling thousands. To-day the system of excessive taxation exists only where monarchy rules, or in a republic where the government has been placed in the hands of politicians or moneyed men.

Let us turn to the other provision of the bill. At eight cents a pound it would cost the publishers of magazines like the Century and Review of Reviews, from eight to twelve cents per copy. This would increase the price of the magazines to such an extent as to place them beyond the reach of the wage earners,—thus restricting the circulation and depriving the masses of much needed educational matter.

On the other hand, we must avoid the other extreme. Since postage was reduced from three cents to two, there has been an annual deficit. It is necessary then, to maintain the present rate until we have a small surplus for necessary improvements.

When this goal has been attained and maintained, then it would be the duty of the people to see that the needed reforms be carried into effect.

MESSRS. HILCKES & CO. IN TROUBLE.

The law case of "William Brown vs. Hilckes & Co., Limited," held at Salisbury, England, November 15th, in which Mr. Brown sought to recover about $25 for goods supplied and advertisements inserted, was decided in favor of the plaintiff.

The case of G. C. Wichmann vs. Hilckes & Co., Limited, wherein Mr. G. C. Wichmann, of the firm of John Boulton & Co., of Cheapside, London, brought suit for libel against Messrs. Hilckes, on account of statements published by them in the Vertrautiches. Korrespondenz—Blatt. The case was held December 11th, and resumed on the 12th. Mr. Dickens, attorney for the plaintiff, announced that a compromise had been arrived at, and that the defendants agreed to pay $500 damages, payable by installments, and to publish a withdrawal of every charge made against the plaintiff. The plaintiff accordingly obtained judgment for $500 and costs.

The next suit will be Mr. C. G. Gonzales, of Philadelphia, vs. Hilckes & Co., for defamation of character.

Mr. Charles E. Shaw, Sales superintendent of the S. of P., reported that the sales for the month of December, from books in his department, averaged nearly 60 per cent of the total value of stamps in the department. A record breaker certainly and it means no mean amount, as there are a number of books in the department that are valued at from $40 to $50. Some 250 books have been sold.

AUCTION SALES REPORT.

J. W. Scotts' sale, Jan. 15:

Montserrat 4 p. blue C. A., $11.50.

Great Britain £ 5 orange, $12.00.

Nova Scotia 1 sh mauve, $117.00.

St. Lucia 1883 1 sh orange, $36.25.

St. Christopher 6 p olive-brown unused, 13.25.

U. S. $1 Columbian unused, $3.50.

U. S. $2 Columbian unused, $3.00.

U. S. 30c Justice, $18.05.

U. S. 90c 1869, $14.50.

U. S. 90c 1868, $10.00.

Send priced catalogues for review.

The next number of The INTERNATIONAL STAMP will contain interesting articles upon "The Differences of the 1872 24 cent," "The 1894 2 cent Pink," and "Forged U. S. Stamps."

Members S. of P. you are requested to read carefully The Collector—supplement to this paper.

Unexpired subscriptions to Canadian Philatelist and Collector will be filled by this paper.

SPECIAL.

Last month we offered a packet of 100 varieties, worth over $1.50 to new subscribers, and secured many new subscriptions. But in order to secure 1,000 more we make the following special offer:

A packet of 100 varieties of good postage stamps from Mexico—old and new issues; Argentine Republic, 5 varieties; Belgium Chemin de Fer; Ceylon 12c lilac-rose cat. at 12 cents and 2 other good ones, Chili, Victoria, Japan, India, South Australia, England ½ p. envelope, Puerto-Rico 3 varieties cat. at 10 cents and many other good stamps, catalogued value over $2.00. Free to those sending us 40 cents for a year's subscription to THE INTERNATIONAL STAMP and 2 cents for postage.

Send at once. This offer will be cancelled with our next issue.

This is the best offer ever made by a philatelic journal.

GRENADA!

Set of 20 Different Grenada . . . .

Adhesive Postage stamps, viz.:—1860 1d; 1882 ½d, 1d, 2½d, 4d, 6d, 8d; 1887 1d; 1895 2½d, 3d, 6d, 8d, 1s; Unpaid, 1893 1d, 2d, 3d, 1d on 8d, 1d on 6d, 2d on 8d, 2d on 6d.

The unpaids are used and on original paper; the others (except 1d of 1880 and 1882 issue) are all unused.

Price $5.00.

One Hundred Different West Indian . .

Postage stamps—adhesives only—including Grenada (set of Unpaid) Barbadoes, Trinidad, Tobago, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Br. Guiana, Martinique, Porto Rico, St. Thomas, etc.. etc.

Grand Value, for $2.00.

Remit by greenbacks or money Order. Postage and registration free.

N. B.—Every stamp warranted a perfect and genuine specimen.

ERNEST SLINGER,

St. Georges, - - Grenada, West Indies.

Special Offers.

A Sydney View at half price and other Bargains.

	Scotts' prices.	My prices.
New South Wales 1850 2 p. blue Plate III. 2nd Retouch, on white laid paper. FINE.....	$17.50	10.00
Oldenburg 1860 3 g. yellow. FINE	8.00	4.50
U. S. Agriculture 1c, unused, o. g. FINE.....	2.00	1.45
U. S. Justice 1c. unused, o. g. FINE.....	1.50	1.10
U. S. Justice 2c. unused, o. g. FINE.....	2.00	1.40
U. S. Justice 12c. unused, o. g. FINE.....	2.00	1.45

Send good reference and receive a selection of foreign at 33⅓ to 50 per cent.

D. M. MERRILL,
366 E. Ninth St., St. Paul, Minn.

AN AD-

VERTISEMENT IN

THE

Minn. Philatelists' ADDRESS BOOK,

which will POSITIVELY appear on

April 10, 1896.- - Will Pay You.

It will contain the names and addresses of every Stamp Collector in Minnesota.

The circulation of this little book will be very large, and every dealer should secure space at once.

The ad. rates are:

One page, (3x6 in.) -	$1.00
½ page, - - - - -	.75
Back cover page, - -	3.00
Inside cover pages, each -	2.00

No ad. will be received after Apr. 1st.

Terms—Cash. No Discount.

Chas. G. Hart, Pub.,
Pipestone, Minn.

1847 5c superb copy $1.00
1847 10c fine copy... ..... 2.90

U. S. STAMP CO.,
Minneapolis, Minn.

DEALER'S DIRECTORY.

A 2 or 3-line adv. in this column 12 times for $1, 24 times for $1.75, cash in advance. Additional lines, 60c each.

Messer, P. L., 1015 W. Balto St., Baltimore, Md. Specialty, approval sheets. Send reference.

Wilkerson, A. H., cor. Gilmore and Saratoga Sts., Baltimore, Md. Approval sheets a specialty. Send references.

Kobbe & Weeks Bros. Stamp Co., Short Hills, N. J. We solicit correspondence with stamp collectors with a view of opening business relations.

U. S. Stamp Co. Box 493 Minneapolis, Minn. Rare U. S. and foreign Stamps for sale. Send want list.

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1851 12c black v. v. f.	$1.75	$1.40
1857 5c brown, type I	3.50	3.00
" 5c brown, type II	2.50	2.10
" 5c red brown, type I	7.00	6.00
" 10c green new o. g., a beauty	1.25	1.15
" 12c black " " "	1.75	1.50
" 24c lilac on p't of o c fine copy	4.50	4.10
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" 24c lilac new o. g.	2.00	1.50
" 30c orange new, no gum	3.50	2.75
" 90c blue, can't be beat	3.50	3.00
1872 15c orange, new, full gum	2.50	.95
Interior complete. new,o. g.	4.75	4.00
Same, used	4.15	4.00
7c War, new, a. g. v. v. copies	2.50	2.45
2c Navy " " v. f.	.65	.50
6c " " " "	.50	.40
6c State " " "	.75	.60
10c " " " 1 perf gone	2.00	1.60
12c " " " v. f.	3.00	2.50
15c " " " off center	2.50	2.00
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New Price List No. 4.

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R. F. ALBRECHT & CO.,
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